employed but also to ensure that they are employed at levels of productivity and income, which are necessary to afford them a decent life. The resources have been accordingly directed through the plan programmes towards achieving this objective.

The National Productivity Council also undertakes various projects and programmes aimed at improving productivity in the Indian economy, inluding the workers.

New Pension Scheme

5353. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert group on Government pensions had recommended a restructured two-tier pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing pension system is likely to be done away on the introduction of the new pension scheme; and

(d) by when the new pension scheme is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) the High Level Expert Group on pensions has recommended a hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution scheme consisting of two tiers. The first tier will be the mandatory tier and the second an optional tier. In the case of the first tier the Government servant is expected to make a monthly contribution of 10% on the basic pay and DA and a matching contribution is to be made by the Government. The first tier pension will be a defined benefit at 50% of the average emoluments for the last 36 months prior to superannuation. The Government servant may make a contribution to the second tier but this will be matched by the Government by an equal contribution only upto 5% of basic pay and D.A. As regards the second tier, the amount on retirement can be either taken as a lump sum or converted into annuities at the choice of the individual.

(c) The New Pension Scheme according to the Group is to be made applicable only to Government servants entering Government service from a stipulated future date. The Existing Pension System will continue for

serving Government empolyees but will not be applicable to new entrants who join Government once the New Scheme is introduced.

(d) A decision on when the New Pension Scheme is likely to be in place is still to be taken by the Government.

Fixation of Pensions

5354. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to fix pension at additional rate of one per cent per year to the employees who have rendered more than 33 years of service with effect from 1.1.1996 as has been recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from various trade unions/individuals for fixing the pension only on the basis of last pay drawn instead of the average of the last ten months pay drawn; and

(d) if so, the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) the question of calculation of pension on 6 months average emoluments as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission/other representations received on the subject were considered by the Government. However, it was decided to not effect any change in the existing pension formula.

Charge sheet issued by charge-sheeted officer

†5355. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an officer charged himself of misconduct is authorised to level charges of misconduct in writing to his subordinate;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.